engineers except one; Mr. Thornton was sentenced to three years' imprisonment, Mr. MacDonald to two, and the rest were deported. By way of protest against this verdict the British Government imposed an embargo on all Soviet imports; and the Soviet Government retaliated with an embargo on all British imports. Shortly afterwards, Mr. Thornton and Mr. MacDonald were released; the embargoes were lifted, and a new Anglo-Soviet Trade Agreement was negotiated.

Round the subsequent succession of political trials, a large literature grew up, heated accusations and counter-accusations being made in places most, remote from Ogpu prisons and firing squads. An American committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. John Dewey, undertook the difficult task of investigating Trotsky's defence against the many and varied charges preferred against him, and admitted by his alleged accomplices, in Moscow, and published its somewhat inconclusive findings;[17] little organisations came into existence in London, Paris and other capitals, calling themselves Trotskyist or Leninist, or anti-Stalinist, according to their fancy; strange by-products, with their obscure sheets and incomprehensible polemical fury, of distant slaughter. The *Daily Worker* and a few other publications continued to add their small contribution to Moscow's large volume of abuse hurled against former idols when they were unmasked, obediently piping their falsetto 'Shoot the Reptiles' in unison with *Pravdas* deeper note; and a party of Left-Wing undergraduates staying in the country, diverted themselves on a rainy day by enacting one of the trials, in their high-pitched

undergraduate voices, pouring out Radek's repentance, mouthing Vyshinsky's rage, until a maid brought in tea and hot buttered scones.

Apart from these specialists, the general attitude was one of utter bewilderment. Such elaborate crimes confessed to at such length and with such precision; such sudden falls from heights so dizzy; a general or admiral sedately marching in George V's funeral procession, an ambassador, called Excellency and much

[17] See *The* Case *of Leon Trotsky*; verbatim report.